

Project Update: June 2013

In the 2013 spring season, orchids have probably had the most intensive collecting pressure ever. In some areas where we have conducted studies in last 3 years without any collecting pressure with rich species composition, we documented brutal collecting. Even the *Ophrys* species with small tubers could not escape from collecting. In none of the sites the orchid collectors ever tried to “re-plant” the species with winter tuber still attached. Two members of well grown giant orchid, *Himantoglossum robertianum*, which are very rare in Turkey, were also taken. This is a clear sign of increasing demand for tubers and reminds how important establishing conservation areas where some critical species could be transferred and saved. Encouraging orchids as a garden plant would also result individual small conservation grounds as well.



Left: *Ophrys* species left on the ground after tubers collected, Milas Turkey. Right: *Serapias cordigera* only found in Datca Peninsula in Turkey